THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA.[1]

The first call for a meeting of those interested in the formation of such a society was issued August 22, 1906, by Prof. A. G. McAdie, of San Francisco, Cal. The object of the meeting was the establishment of a society similar in its purposes to the Imperial Earthquake Investigation Committee of Japan. The formation of a society of this character, with headquarters in California, seemed to be in order, especially in view of the fact that the Pacific coast is the locus of occasional seismic activity and that the city of San Francisco, in particular, has vital interests at stake which demand the best information obtainable. The State Earthquake Commission, appointed by Governor Pardee, in a letter dated April 21, 1906, was simply a committee of inquiry acting under instructions to gather information concerning the great earthquake of April 18. The committee was not a permanent one and was without legislative authority or other formal basis,[2] and subsequently placed itself on record as favoring the formation of a permanent seismological society. Several earnest investigators, including Dr. F. Omori, of the Imperial Investigation Committee, urged that organized effort be attempted thru such a seismological society to collect, preserve, and utilize all records, reports, and studies of seismological phenomena.

The society was duly organized and in time incorporated according to the laws of the State of California. The board of directors for 1907 are George Davidson, Andrew C. Lawson, T. J. J. See, Alex. G. McAdie, J. N. LeConte, Geo. D. Louderback, Chas. Burkhalter, W. W. Campbell, C. Derleth, A. C. Leuschner, and J. S. Ricard.

The object of the society, briefly stated, is the acquisition and diffusion of knowledge concerning earthquakes and allied phenomena, and the enlistment of the support of the people and the Government in the attainment of these ends. At the present time the society has a membership of about 200 active members and several life members. The membership is distributed over all of the United States. The society contemplates several lines of work and many committees have already been formed and certain duties assigned. It is hoped that publications similar in scope to those of the earthquake investigation committee may be issued in due time, altho the society is anxious to avoid duplication of work or interference in any way with work in the field of seismology undertaken by others. Its prime purpose is to diffuse knowledge, to mold public opinion, to advise wisely and to provide funds for research and investigation. Its efforts will not be restricted to any one locality or section nor to any nation. It proposes to work for the welfare of all men in the acquisition of knowledge concerning terrestrial disturbances.—*A. G. McAdie.*

[1] We are indebted to Prof. A. G. McAdie for the following information concerning the organization of the Seismological Society of America, contained in his letter, dated May 28, 1907.—*C. F. M.*

[2] The Carnegie Institution has most generously provided for the expenses of the earthquake commission. The State of California has contributed nothing as yet.

CORRIGENDA.

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for November, 1906, Vol. XXXIV, No. 11, page 538, El Paso, under "Total Precipitation", for "25.0" read "2.50".

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for February, 1907, Vol. XXXV, No. 2, page 76, first column, line 16, for "36.5 inches" read "3.65 inches", and omit the remainder of the sentence.

THE WEATHER OF THE MONTH.

By Mr. P. C. DAY, Assistant Chief, Division of Meteorological Records.

PRESSURE.

The distribution of mean atmospheric pressure for April, 1907, over the United States and Canada is graphically shown on Chart VI, and the average values and departures from the normal are shown for each station in Tables I and V.

The influence of pressure distribution on the character of the weather over the United States was as well marked in April as during the preceding month, and, as in March, new records for extreme weather conditions were established at numerous points.

A complete reversal of the pressure distribution that had prevailed in March marked its distribution during April, and the prevailing surface winds and accompanying weather conditions normally expected in March were the most pronounced features of the weather for April.

The comparatively low pressure that prevailed during March over the northwestern districts of the United States and Canada was replaced in April by a decided winter type of high pressure, while the high pressure area of March extending from the southern California coast eastward to the Gulf and northeastward along the Atlantic coast gave way to comparatively low pressure during April.

The diminished pressure over New England, the Atlantic coast districts, and the Lake region multiplied largely the opportunities for the discharge of cold northerly winds over those districts from the high pressure area normal in April over the districts between Hudson Bay and the St. Lawrence Valley, while persistent high pressure over the upper Missouri Valley and the Canadian Northwest Provinces brought the Mississippi and Missouri valleys, the Great Plains, and eastern slope of the Rocky Mountain districts, under the influence of cold northwesterly winds from the region of high pressure to the north.

Pressure during April averaged 0.10 inch, or more, above the normal over the upper Missouri Valley and the Canadian Northwest Provinces, and about the same amount below the normal over the Canadian Maritime Provinces, New England, and the northern portion of the Middle Atlantic States.

Over the Pacific slope and Plateau districts nearly normal conditions of pressure were maintained. An unusual number of storms developed over the central Rocky Mountain districts, which, in the presence of high pressure over the Missouri Valley, moved eastward south of their normal tracks, thereby bringing to the Gulf States frequent and extreme changes in weather.

The central point to which nearly all the storms of the month converged in their eastward progress across the United States was transferred from the normal course down the St. Lawrence Valley to southern New England, and that district was the theater of nearly continuous storm activity during the entire month.

TEMPERATURE.

April, 1907, established new records of thermal conditions over a large part of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. The month was not noted for extreme cold, however, but for the persistence with which cold and unseasonable weather prevailed. The abnormally warm weather of the latter part of March was followed early in April by a decided fall in temperature over all eastern and southern districts, with freezing temperature and killing frosts as far south as central Georgia.

From the 12th to 15th a severe cold wave moved southeastward from the Dakotas to northern Florida, and freezing temperatures with killing frosts again penetrated the interior of the east Gulf and South Atlantic States.

On the 16th another cold wave overspread all northwestern districts east of the Rocky Mountains, and moved southward during the following day to central Texas and the northern